

DRAFT Interim Snapshot of EPA OU4 Data Needs and New Data Collection Plans September 12, 2006

The Conceptual Site Model (CSM) for the Libby Site (OU4) shows the various exposure pathways that EPA intends to assess in order to understand the nature and extent of Libby Amphibole (LA) asbestos exposures, and associated risks, in the community. For each of the exposure pathways of interest, the goal is to evaluate the risks as they existed before EPA began cleanup actions, and the level of risk that remains after EPA cleanup actions are complete. As previously discussed during community meetings, EPA has been evaluating the available sampling data collected from the Libby Site to identify information or data gaps with respect to these exposure pathways. Points of consideration with regard to the adequacy of the available data include: representativeness of the data in both time and space, the number of samples available, and the quality of the samples in terms of requirements for risk assessment. To date, EPA data assessment efforts have been largely focused on available information concerning ambient air, outdoor air near contaminated soils, and air inside of homes and businesses (indoor air). Though these efforts continue to be ongoing, EPA has already identified several areas in need of additional data collection that will be actively pursued at this time. As this process proceeds and additional data gaps are identified, this information will be made available to the community, along with any plans to collect the needed information as they unfold.

Exposure Pathway	Available Data	Data Issues or Needs	New Sampling Plans
Outdoor Ambient Air	There are 404 samples of outdoor ambient air collected during the 2000-2002 time frame	These data are not representative enough in time or space and have other inadequacies with respect to risk characterization needs.	EPA will soon begin a monitoring program that will provide much improved data on levels of asbestos in outdoor ambient air in the main residential/commercial area of Libby, both now and as EPA cleanups continue.
Air Near Disturbed Soil	EPA has gone to a number of different outdoor soil locations, disturbed the soil by several different methods (raking, mowing, digging), and measured the levels of LA that are observed in personal air samples. (For convenience, we refer to this as Activity-Based Sampling, or ABS). The results indicate that the levels of LA in air are highly variable, depending on a wide range of factors.	Because of the high variability between samples, more ABS sampling is needed to help ensure the data are adequately representative of the various levels of soil contamination and soil disturbance conditions of interest.	EPA will soon be developing new plans to provide needed information regarding this pathway. Special focus will be on areas with lower and non-detect levels of LA soil contamination and areas with visible vermiculite present in the soil.
Indoor Air	EPA has collected samples from both stationary and personal samples under both "routine" conditions, and during "active cleaning" activities. Although there is high variability between samples, the data indicate that average levels of LA are higher during active cleaning than during routine activities, and that average levels in personal air samples are higher than in stationary air samples. Presently, it appears that active disturbance of contaminated dust is the most important driver of indoor air exposures.	While the current data are sufficient to provide a good starting point for assessing exposures in indoor air, the data are not sufficient in number, nor sufficiently representative over time or space to ensure that the results are appropriate for risk characterization.	EPA will soon begin planning for the collection of indoor air samples at additional homes and businesses in Libby, both before and after EPA cleanup actions.

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